

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 MARCH 1984

Lebanon

The Security Arrangements Committee met at the French contingent's headquarters in Beirut to discuss issues related to the cease-fire while limited exchanges of fire continued in several areas of the capital, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Sources at the National Dialogue Conference in Lausanne disclosed that the committee to supervise the cease-fire has proposed the formation of a 2,000-strong volunteer force of observers to be deployed along the contact lines, the radio said. The conference will resume on 15 March; meanwhile, all delegations attended a banquet hosted by President Amin al-Jumayyil the previous evening, the Voice of Lebanon noted. Earlier, Al-Jumayyil and Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam separately received delegation heads in an attempt to formulate a draft declaration of principles for adoption by the conference. The radio said the draft focuses on administrative decentralization, the three main political posts, and the formation of a national unity government.

In his speech to the conference on 14 March, reported by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt reaffirmed his demand that Al-Jumayyil be "brought to account," insisted on the abolition of political sectarianism, and rejected the Christian plan for a federal system in favor of a "Lebanese Arab republic." However, a Lebanese Forces statement reported by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon rejected Lebanon's Arab identity and all forms of "weakness," stressing the Christian militia's determination to follow the late Bashir al-Jumayyil's line of "resistance." Nevertheless, the Phalange Party Political Bureau earlier emphasized the need to stabilize the cease-fire, according to the Voice of Lebanon.

Syria

Officers' Arrest — Authorities recently arrested 49 officers on treason charges although another 20 officers suspected of links with this group managed to flee to Jordan, the Tel Aviv *HA'ARETZ* reported.

Commentary on U.S. Policy — President Reagan's 13 March speech to U.S. Jews confirms the "sickness" of U.S. Middle East policy and proves the president's "ignorance" of the region's affairs, Damascus radio contended in a 14 March commentary. After criticizing U.S. "partiality" toward Israel, the radio denied Reagan's claim that Syria endangers Jordan, asserting that the current strained relations between Syria and Jordan are the result of U.S. pressure on Jordan to enter into the Camp David "conspiracy" and the Reagan plan.

PLO Affairs

'Arafat in YAR — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat chaired a Palestinian Supreme Military Council meeting

in San'a' and is expected to hold talks soon with YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, San'a' radio announced.

Athens Arrest — An armed Palestinian who was arrested in Athens admitted planning to murder the chief of the Israeli diplomatic mission there, the Athens *MESIMVRINI* reported.

Israeli-Egyptian Relations

The Egyptians are violating the agreement with Israel by maintaining a military "infrastructure" that would allow them to place a "full field army beyond the Suez Canal within a few hours if they wish to," Defense Minister Moshe Arens announced in remarks reported by the Tel Aviv *MA'ARIV*. Such actions raise doubts as to "what will really grow in the Sinai sands," the minister added.

Iran-Iraq War

Arab Conference Ends — The Arab foreign ministers emergency conference concluded its meetings in Baghdad on 14 March with the adoption of a number of resolutions pertaining to the escalation of the Iran-Iraq war, INA announced. Among these resolutions is a demand for Iran to "immediately commit itself" to a decision to stop the fighting and respond to peace initiatives, condemnation of Iran's continuing "aggression" against Iraq, praise for Iraq's readiness to begin negotiations to end the war, and commitment to the 12th Arab summit resolution which stresses the need for Arab solidarity and which considers an act of aggression against any Arab country to be aggression against all other Arab countries, INA stated. The conference also warned Iran that its continuation of the war would force the Arab states to reconsider their relations with it. The conference formed a committee composed of the foreign ministers of Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Tunisia, Jordan, Morocco, the YAR, and the Arab League secretary general to follow up the implementation of the resolutions, INA reported. The Iraqi foreign minister described the conference as a "great success" and expressed satisfaction with the results which represent "solidarity with Iraq," INA added.

Meanwhile, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, in talks with conference participants reported by INA, asserted that Iraq has prepared itself to meet any new Iranian attack "in a way that will make our confrontation decisive."

Military Situation — Iraqi forces repulsed another enemy attack east of Basra, killing 1,728 Iranians and destroying 4 tanks, Iraq announced in a 14 March military communique broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio. Earlier, Tehran radio said Iranian forces were continuing to consolidate their new positions in the Talayah area, having killed or wounded over 500 Iraqis and destroyed several tanks. Meanwhile, a UN fact-finding delegation visited the Iranian side of the southern front to inspect evidence of Iraqi chemical bombings, IRNA noted. Commenting

on this issue, Tehran radio said the Soviet Union's criticism of the U.S. decision to send experts to investigate Iraq's use of chemical weapons provides "food for thought."

Iraq

Iraq is "prepared to recognize Israel's right to exist," according to remarks made by the Iraqi deputy foreign minister in Washington and quoted by Jerusalem radio. The Iraqi official also "firmly denied" allegations that his country is using chemical weapons in its war with Iran. He called on the United States, Japan, and Europe to boycott Iranian oil and thereby "bankrupt" the country, the radio added.

First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan met with a visiting Soviet delegation led by CPSU Central Committee member Yakov Ryabov on 14 March, INA stated. The Soviet official said his delegation's visit at this particular time indicates the depth of relations between the two countries. He affirmed the USSR's desire to expand relations and its readiness to increase its contribution toward implementing "development and strategic projects" in Iraq, INA reported.

Iran

The 14 March Cabinet session discussed the justice minister's request to resign from his post in order to participate in the upcoming Majlis elections, Tehran radio reported.

Meanwhile, the delegation led by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left Algiers for Romania after holding talks with several high-ranking Algerian officials, Tehran radio stated.

Libya

Libya is to be divided into "defensive regions" with responsibility for the defense of each region resting with the inhabitants, according to a statute issued on 13 March and broadcast by Tripoli radio. All Libyans of a prescribed age will be militarily trained in a "continuous manner" as long as they are physically able, with the acceptance that military institutions continue to apply solely to males "only as long as necessary," the statute added.

Western Sahara

The SDAR defense minister was killed in recent battles between Polisario and Moroccan forces, according to Rabat press reports cited by KUNA.

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Indian Cosmonaut Set for Space Flight 3 April
BK141359 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] The first Indian cosmonaut will go into space aboard a Soyuz spacecraft from Baykanur cosmodrome in the Soviet Union on the 3d of next month. The Soyuz spacecraft carrying the Indian spaceman along with two other Soviet cosmonauts will eventually dock the Salyut-7 space station, which is already in orbit.

Lok Sabha Condemns Attempt on Life of Singh
BK141559 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
14 Mar 84

[Text] The entire Lok Sabha today joined the speaker in condemning yesterday's attempt on the life of the former Punjab chief minister, Mr Darbara Singh. The home minister, Mr P.C. Sethi, described the attack as dastardly. Mr Sethi said he would make a detailed statement when the matter is discussed in the house on Friday through a calling attention motion.

The issue was raised in the house by Mr Mani Ram Bagri; Lok Dal; Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee; Bharatiya Janata Party; and others. In the Rajya Sabha also, the members condemned the incident. They urged the government to take strong steps to curb violence and the activities of antinational elements in Punjab and Haryana.

Policeman Killed in Delhi 14 March
BK141601 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
14 Mar 84

[Text] A police constable was shot dead by three unidentified persons at the Kashmiri Gate area in north Delhi today. According to police, the miscreants also shot at another constable, who escaped unhurt.

Curfew Reimposed in Disturbed Areas in Bangalore
BK141609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
14 Mar 84

[Text] The situation in Bangalore is peaceful. City buses operated normally, and shops were open today. The police commissioner told our correspondent that no untoward incident has been reported from any part of the city.

However, a dusk-to-dawn curfew has been reimposed in the disturbed areas as a precautionary measure.

Security Measures Stepped Up in Imphal
BK150915 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
15 Mar 84

[Text] Security measures have been stepped up in Imphal, and intensive combing operations launched to apprehend unidentified persons who opened fire on the Central Reserve Police Force

[CRPF] yesterday, resulting in the death of 14 persons. Several others were injured, four of them critically. The incident took place during a volleyball match.

The home minister, Mr P. C. Sethi, informed the Lok Sabha that he is in touch with the authorities in Imphal, and is expected to make a more detailed statement later. Earlier, several opposition members expressed their concern at the incident and the revival of extremist activities in the northeastern region. The speaker, Mr Balram Jhakar, also announced that the home minister will make a statement on the attempt on the life of the former Punjab chief minister, Mr Darbara Singh, on Monday.

The situation in Heiranguithong near Imphal is now under control. The 16-hour curfew imposed last evening was lifted at 1000 this morning. The government today ruled out any proposal for talks with the leader of the banned Mizo National Front [MNF], Mr Lal Denga. The Rajya Sabha was informed that the MNF has continued to indulge in violence.

A press notification was also issued banning the organization and its allied bodies in January this year. According to the Mizoram government, police and security forces are maintaining a constant vigil.

Amritsar Police Called To Disperse Students
BK141607 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
14 Mar 84

[Text] In Amritsar, police had to resort to firing in the air to disperse two clashing groups of students today at a local college. The college authorities called in the police to control the situation.

The student groups are reported to have exchanged fire. Nobody was injured.

Sikh Leader Says Akalis Want Communal Harmony
BK150348 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
15 Mar 84

[Text] The Akali Dal president, Mr Harchand Singh Longowal, has said that his party is wedded to communal harmony and amity. Addressing a congregation in Amritsar last evening, he said his party never wanted a separate country for the Sikhs. He denied all accusations in this regard.

Pakistani Students Demonstrate Against Union Ban
BK140318 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
14 Mar 84

[Text] In Pakistan, more than 400 students staged a demonstration in Karachi yesterday in protest against the recent ban on student unions. The demonstrators are reported to have damaged five government vehicles.

Security of Indian Mission in Pakistan Assured*BK140452 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
14 Mar 84*

[Text] The Pakistan foreign secretary, Mr Niaz Naik, has assured India that all necessary security measures will be taken to protect the Indian mission and personnel in Pakistan. Mr Naik told the Indian ambassador, Mr K.D. Sharma, that he was aware of the threat issued by the so-called Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front to avenge the execution of Maqbool Butt. It appears to have intensified its political activity after the arrival of four or five of its office-bearers in Islamabad from London.

PATRIOT Views Resumption of Talks With Pakistan*BK121025 Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Mar 84 p 4*

[Editorial: "Islamabad's Perception"]

[Text] After the recent meeting of the South Asian Regional Cooperation [SARC] standing committee in Delhi Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Niaz Naik has stayed back for two days in India partly for an extended talk on bilateral issues. Mr Naik has said that he hoped for "an in-depth" exchange of views with his Indian counterpart on the totality of Indo-Pakistan relations. There are reports of the possibility of resumed discussions soon on the proposals for a friendship and nonaggression pact between the two countries, discussions which have run aground over the two neighbours' differing perceptions of security and nonalignment.

If Mr Naik's words convey a renewal of a desire in Islamabad to halt the continuing deterioration in India-Pakistan relations then this country has every reason to welcome that development. Whether or not discussions yield early results India will no doubt seize every opportunity for continuing the dialogue with Pakistan. Geography and common history bind India to Pakistan in indissoluble bonds and these cannot be sundered, whatever may be the current situation between the two nations. Thus while this country should welcome and foster the possibilities of cooperation through the multi-national forum of SARC, the Government of India will no doubt continue to show close interest in the resumption of the dialogue with the authorities in Pakistan in a purely bilateral context.

However, it is necessary to know if Islamabad is really ready to move ahead with the stalled talks on a friendship treaty, or the show of interest in the proposal is yet another diplomatic ploy with which the military regime wishes to silence the remaining critics in America of President Reagan's military largesse to General Zia's regime. It is well to acknowledge that the perceptions of India and Pakistan on a friendship treaty are still far apart. All recent authoritative statements emanating from Pakistan suggest that the Government there has not revised its position on the question of foreign bases in the subcontinent. Islamabad still believes that a nonaggression agreement should say nothing about the external military presence in the Indian subcontinent. It is difficult to see how any progress towards a nonaggression pact can be made if Pakistan refuses to revise its position on this issue. It is of utmost importance that the two countries subscribe to a joint declaration by which both countries

will agree to exclude foreign military fixed bases or facilities from respective territories. Such a declaration can by no stretch of imagination be described as a derogation from national sovereignty, as Mr Agha Shahi recently suggested. A joint declaration by which the two countries will exclude from the subcontinent foreign bases will merely conform to the fundamental tenet of nonalignment which India and also Pakistan profess. If Islamabad is unwilling to formally reject foreign bases the reluctance has an easy explanation. Pakistan has not given up its hope of securing a vastly expanded U.S. intrusion in the affairs of the Indian subcontinent. So long as Pakistan refuses to allay this misgiving there can be no real advance towards a nonaggression or friendship treaty between the two countries.

Gandhi Addresses Congress-I National Conference*BK111612 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
11 Mar 84*

[Excerpt] The 3-day national level conference of Congress-I members of parliament and members of legislative assemblies ended in New Delhi today. Speaking at the concluding session, the party president, Mrs Indira Gandhi, assured the backward sections of all help until needed. She asked them to learn to become self-reliant. She said they should not look upon the reservation guaranteed by the Constitution as a permanent protection. Mrs Gandhi dismissed as political propaganda the allegation that she is neglecting the minority interests. She said the emphasis we are giving to the uplift of weaker section is not at the cost of anybody. The minorities have to be looked after properly in the interest of the majority community also, or else, social stability will be disturbed.

Mrs Gandhi called upon the legislators to identify the deficiencies in the implementation of the 20-point and other developmental programs.

Speaking about the opposition attitude, Mrs Gandhi said they have no alternate policy or program. The threat from the western border does not perturb them. She said the government has a greater responsibility to alert the nation in this regard.

Janata Party Session Ends; Resolutions Reported*BK111627 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
11 Mar 84*

[Text] The second plenary session of the Janata Party ended at Jayprakash Nagar in Patna today after adopting the resolutions on economic, political and international policies.

The political resolution called for national unity and radical changes in society. It also criticized the Congress-I for its alleged failure on various fronts. The economic resolution calls for removal of imbalances in the prices of agricultural and industrial goods, while the international resolution urges the government to make fresh efforts for the establishment of a zone of peace in South Asia.

The session also adopted a new policy on elections which envisages mergers, alliances and electoral adjustments with all opposi-

tion parties irrespective of ideological differences. The party chief, Mr Chandra Shekhar, has been authorized to negotiate with different parties. The national executive of the party will meet by the end of this month to discuss the possibilities of unity with other parties and electoral adjustments.

Later, addressing a public meeting in Patna, the Janata Party president stressed the need for strengthening the base of secularism in the country. He said the benefit of development programs must reach all sections of society, particularly the poor and the down-trodden. Mr Chandra Shekhar also called for a change in the present social order to eliminate poverty and unemployment from society.

The meeting was also addressed by Mr Ramvilas Paswan, Mr Raj Narain, and Mr Chandrajit Yadav, among others. They expressed deep concern over the deterioration in law and order, and price rises. They called for immediate solutions to the Punjab and Assam problems.

Further on Resolutions

*BK100959 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
10 Mar 84*

[Text] The national executive of the Janata Party has called for a principled consolidation of all opposition forces based on a common, viable program. A resolution on the political situation, adopted by the executive in Patna today, felt this approach will help the opposition emerge as, what it called, a political alternative to the Congress-I.

The draft said the Janata Party has initiated a dialogue with the opposition parties to achieve a programmatic unity in the United Front formed last September. The resolution criticized the center for trying to, what it described as, topple non-Congress-I state governments. It accused the government for dragging its feet over the recommendations of the Mandal commission. It alleged that the Congress-I has not been able to consolidate the forces of national integration.

The resolution on foreign affairs urged the center to begin meaningful negotiations for a treaty of nonaggression and friendly cooperation in order to contain the arms race in the subcontinent. It pleaded for a new initiative for the establishment

of a zone of peace in South Asia while maintaining defense preparedness.

The draft demanded the immediate withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan and urged the Soviet Union and the United States to resume negotiations on limiting their presence in the Indian Ocean.

Advanced Version of Light Helicopters Projected

*BK131021 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
13 Mar 84*

[Text] The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited is to go in for mass production of an advanced version of light helicopters for the Indian defense forces. Talks on collaboration with certain European military firms are now over and a final decision on its manufacture is now only a matter of time.

This was announced by the defense minister, Mr Venkataraman, while answering supplementaries during question time in the Rajya Sabha today. He emphatically denied that the light combat aircraft project has been abandoned. In reply to a specific question, he told the house that India is at present discussing with the Soviet Union, France and Britain, apart from other countries, technical collaboration for manufacturing the light combat aircraft.

Venkataraman on Movement of U.S. Warships

*BK131025 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
13 Mar 84*

[Text] The Rajya Sabha was told today that the government is aware of the reported movement of the U.S. warships from Lebanon to the Indian Ocean following the Iranian threat of blocking the Strait of Hormuz.

The defense minister, Mr Venkataraman, told the house during the question hour that a slight increase in the presence of the U.S. warships in the Indian Ocean has been observed in the last 6 months. He said the government keeps a constant watch on the developments in the region and steps are being taken to safeguard the country's security.

Zia: No Aggressive Designs Against Anyone
BK151119 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT
 15 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has reiterated that Pakistan has no aggressive designs against anyone. At the same time, it cannot leave itself at the mercy of others.

He said this while addressing a passing out parade at the Pakistan Military Academy in Kakul this morning. The president said Pakistan is a peace-loving country, but it has to keep itself in complete preparedness to meet any challenge. The president said the basic fundamental for the officers of the Armed Forces is the character building and love with the country. They should keep the independence and sovereignty of the country above all and keep themselves abreast with the modern changes and technology. He said the valor of the Pakistan Army is enviable not only in the country but abroad. He told the passing out cadets that they were taking the command of such an Army which is second to none.

Zia Addresses Afghan Problem, Soviet Ties
BK141707 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT
 14 Mar 84

[Excerpt] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq has reiterated that Pakistan will not compromise on principles regarding the political settlement of the Afghan problem. Addressing a news conference in Peshawar this afternoon, he said the Afghan problem is an international problem and does not concern Pakistan and Afghanistan alone. Pakistan, he said, is not alone in its efforts toward finding a solution to this issue. The Islamic Conference Organization, the Nonaligned Movement, and the United Nations have supported its stand on this issue. He recalled that 117 nations had voted at the United Nations in favor of the demand for the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan. The ICO has made it mandatory for its member nations not to establish any kind of (?relations) with Afghanistan until and unless a solution to this problem is found in accordance with its resolutions.

The president said a handful of elements are in favor of the point that we should shake hands with the Karmal administration, but while raising this point they forget the fact that the Karmal administration is ruling over Afghanistan with the help of foreign tanks. He announced that the 85 million Pakistani people, whose hearts are fraught with the spirit of Islam, are prepared to sacrifice their lives for the nation and the country, and that they would not compromise on this issue. They have full faith in God and, God willing, they would overcome the obstacle in their way. The president expressed the hope that the visit of the UN secretary general's personal representative, Mr Cordovez, will bring about improvement in the situation and a peaceful political solution to the Afghan problem would be found. He said that after Cordovez's visit to Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran, the indirect talks would be resumed in Geneva.

When asked to comment on the statement of the American president's former national security adviser, Dr Brzezinski, the president said there is no objection to the stationing of the UN

peace force comprising troops from Islamic nations in Afghanistan provided such a move can help in finding a political solution to the Afghan problem. Dr Brzezinski had said that following the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan, a force of the Islamic nations should be stationed there. However, so far as the Soviet stand on a guarantee against foreign interference in Afghanistan is concerned, Pakistan on its part has never interfered in its affairs. The question of safeguards forms the main topic of indirect negotiations as well as the most important part of efforts toward a peaceful solution to the Afghan problem, he observed.

The president emphasized that despite the continuation of the Afghan problem, Pakistan has no dispute with the Soviet Union. Bilateral relations are very good and their trade has also increased. Their cultural relations have improved and they have exchanged delegations.

Replying to a question about the massive increase in India's military strength, the president said it would have to be assessed with utmost caution, but they have told India that it can acquire any type of arms according to its need, and, in the like manner, Pakistan is also trying to do so according to its needs and resources. Pakistan fears no one, and we will continue to stand on our own feet.

In reply to a question about the charter on elections announced by him at a public meeting in Peshawar, the president reiterated that the elections would be held strictly in accordance with the Islamic laws. But the procedure of the elections has yet not been decided, and an announcement in this regard would be made at the appropriate time. He said all those people who are interested in the stability of the country would be welcome to contest the election.

Replying to a question, he said the ban on political parties and political activities would continue for the time being. He emphasized that there should be no violence in politics for grabbing power and everyone should keep the unity and stability of the nation uppermost in his mind. The president said the 1973 Constitution would be made in line with the Islamic principles and necessary amendments would be made to the Constitution before elections. He emphasized that his government has the legal mandate to do so. He said the term of office of the head of state as laid down in the 1973 Constitution would not be changed; however, the elected government would have the right to change it.

In reply to a question, the president said people involved in the antisocial activities will be deprived of their voting rights. The purpose of this step is to determine the basic qualifications for voters and to provide opportunity to men of opinion to come forward according to Islam.

Replying to a question, the president said names of additional members of the Federal Advisory Council would be announced before the beginning of the council's session on 31 March. The list of members will include representatives from all four provinces.

The president appealed to the students to pay attention to their studies instead of wasting time in other activities. He said the students are as dear to him as to their parents.

NAWA-E WAQT on Indian-Soviet Military Cooperation
GF111335 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 7 Mar 84 p 3

[Editorial: "Indian-Soviet Military Cooperation"]

[Excerpts] The Soviet defense minister, Marshal Dmitriy Ustinov, has called military cooperation between India and the Soviet Union "extremely necessary," and has said that the "peace agreement" signed in 1971 has resulted in increased relations in the right direction. He said this while speaking to correspondents at New Delhi Airport during his 6-day visit to India.

Although India carries on a lot of propaganda about being an adherent to the nonaligned policy and an opponent of military pacts, it does not conform to this standard and feels that this only applies to Pakistan. Even limited purchases by Pakistan are labeled "arms aid" from the United States and rumors are spread that Pakistan is providing military bases to the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force and that it has become involved in the U.S. military strategy in the region.

India's propaganda campaign is part of a scheme to weaken Pakistan militarily for its own military preponderance. Not only has it obtained modern armaments from the Soviet Union at ridiculously low prices, it has also obtained Mirages, long-range Jaguars, and submarines from Western countries (FRG, Great

Britain, and France). India is continuously stockpiling its arsenal on the pretext of safeguarding its vast land and sea frontiers, but if Pakistan purchases even a few tanks or aircraft, India attributes it to preparations for an attack and initiates a storm of cacophonous clamor. The Soviet Union wishes to and is trying to increase India's capacity and strength to attack by providing the most sophisticated armaments, which it has not given to its Warsaw Pact allies. So why does India continue to purchase arms and equipment worth millions of dollars from Western countries?

Although the sale and purchase of arms depends on Soviet and Indian interests and policies and is to their mutual advantage, India also uses this as a means for better bargaining with the Soviet Union. On the one hand, the Soviet Union relaxes its conditions for the sale of arms and, on the other hand, Mrs Gandhi gets the opportunity to exert pressure on the Soviet Union to request the pro-Soviet Indian Communist Party to refrain from supporting her opponents.

Military cooperation between India and the Soviet Union has assumed wider dimensions and by labeling it "necessary," Marshal Ustinov has pointed out its direction and nature. Whatever the aspirations of India and the Soviet Union, the object of military cooperation between the two countries can only be Pakistan. Therefore, to strengthen Pakistan's defense and to make it effective, the need of the hour is greater internal unity. We cannot hope for justice and fair play from India or the Soviet Union, but if we strengthen our defenses by consolidating national unity with all the resources at our disposal, however limited, our efforts in this direction should bear tangible results.

NEPAL

Council Meets; Economic Planning Criticized

BK141425 Hong Kong AFP in English 0209 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Katmandu, March 13 (AFP) — Three former prime ministers and other top brass of Nepal's Panchayat (legislature) polity have sharply criticized the country's economic planning during a National Planning Council meeting here.

"The nation will not prosper nor will the lot of the people improve, even with the 60th plan if the present day planning and implementation process are to continue," Tulsi Giri told the meeting yesterday.

The country's current sixth five-year plan ends in July 1985.

"Billions of rupees have been spent here in the name of development. The amount is right here in somebody's pocket but has not reached the people at the grass-roots level," the former prime minister said. He said development should be planned according to popular aspirations, and he called for a change in planning procedures.

"The people who have already got the right to elect their representatives should be allotted the responsibility to decide on development matters and execute them and enjoy the return of the same," he said. He criticized the council, which is meeting for the first time in three years, for not holding annual sessions.

Another former prime minister, Kirti Nidhi Bista, who held that office five times, said that one of the reasons for the country's failure to develop adequately was due to serving small interests rather than the nation as a whole. He also cited as problems the "loss of the sense of direction and that of self confidence in those dedicated to the service of the nation." He said foreign economic assistance and the way in which domestic resources were being mobilized had not improved the standard of living. In December the Nepal aid consortium, a multi-national group, pledged 542 million dollars, its largest commitment ever, to Nepal for two years.

Former Prime Minister Natrika Prasad Koirala told the meeting that the country's economic planning was replete with shortcomings.

"There is an obvious lack of long range outlook in project selection, and foreign assistance is accepted without due thinking about projects that could be more beneficial to the people," he said. He cited the 125 million dollar 60 megawatt potential Kulekhani Hydro power project and Morang Sunsari irrigation project as examples of lopsided planning.

The second day of the meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand. More than 25 other members have criticized the country's economic planning, most saying it had contributed only to slow economic growth.

The meeting is to review economic progress achieved in the past three years and discuss guidelines for the seventh plan. A draft

of the seventh plan presented Monday centered on continuing to raise national production of this predominantly agrarian country, creating productive employment and meeting public requirements of the population.

SRI LANKA

All-Party Conference Convened 13 March

BK141129 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] The all-party conference was convened in committee last evening at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall [BMICH]. During the course of discussion, several delegations expressed their views and also made observations on statements of other delegations on the question of the appropriate institutions of government at a subnational level.

Minister Lalith Athulathmudali, the conference spokesman, told a news briefing that the subnational level institutions cover three options — the district level, the provincial level, and the regional level institutions. The conference had agreed that there should be some sort of government at a subnational level.

The minister said that the conference will now decide on what the appropriate institution of the government at a subnational level should be.

Mr Athulathmudali said the conference was held in an atmosphere of cordiality. The conference will meet again tomorrow.

The Sri Lanka Freedom Party [SLFP] is against the formation of regional councils or the provincial councils. This was disclosed by the Mahanayake Thera the Asigiriya Chapter, the Venerable Palipane Chandananda, who is the head of the delegation of the Supreme Council of the Mahasangha [Buddhist Council]. He was speaking at a news conference at the BMICH last evening. He said that a mahasangha delegation met the SLFP yesterday morning. Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, the leader of the SLFP, and the leader of the opposition, Anura Bandaranaike, were among those present.

The Mahanayake said that he had brought to the notice of the all-party conference last evening the views expressed by SLFP at this meeting. He said that the delegations had proposed various forms of government to the conference. The mahasangha too had presented their proposals. He disclosed that since they thought that it would be useful to get the views of various political parties on the proposals of the mahasangha the first time they met the UNP [United National Party] and came to a general understanding on their main proposals. It was after this meeting that they met the SLFP yesterday.

The venerable Dr Walpola Rahula Thera also addressed the news conference.

Musavi Describes 14 March Cabinet Meeting*LD141331 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT
14 Mar 84*

[Text] The Cabinet met this morning under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi.

Current affairs in the country and political developments in the region were discussed. At the end of today's session, the prime minister was interviewed by our correspondent.

[Begin recording; correspondent] Mr Musavi, please tell us about the most important issues discussed in today's session, as well as the latest developments in the war between truth and falsehood.

[Musavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Political developments concerning the region and the country were discussed. The results of the visit of the Nicaraguan delegation was discussed and the brothers who contacted and had discussions with the delegation reported on the results of their discussions. The results were quite good. Nicaragua is a revolutionary country in Latin America, which is struggling against America. It has problems and difficulties which are not dissimilar to our own — economic blockade, internal conspiracies, conspiracies on their borders, a completely dependent industry, and so forth. These issues were discussed and it is natural that, on the basis of its foreign policy, the Islamic Republic of Iran will render any assistance it can to such countries. This applies to Nicaragua. It was decided that diplomatic contacts between the two countries should be increased, and we regard this as useful.

The advances made by our fighting forces in the Talayah axis were discussed. The chemical bombardments by the Iraqi regime also were discussed. A UN delegation has come to investigate this matter. It is natural that we acted to reveal the nature of Saddam's regime, namely, we sent some of our dear injured ones to Japan, France, and England, both to receive treatment and to show the people of the world some examples of the nature of Saddam's regime. Due to the effect which it has had on world public opinion, greater attention is now being paid to the correctness of our claims.

A bill was approved by the Cabinet, and we hope that with amendments, which will probably be made by the Majlis, it will help resolve the land issue throughout the country; the bill concerns the cancellation of titles of ownership of unused land outside city boundaries. This naturally will make it easier for the seven-member teams and other organizations to allocate land and its use. As you know, there is a great deal of land, but due to past malpractices, certain documents and titles were forged or obtained through bribery or force during the former regime. The hands of the seven-member teams therefore were tied. This bill will solve this problem both in connection with agricultural land as well as land which may be allocated to industry or other services.

There were a number of urgent resolutions, as we are approaching the end of the year. There were a large number of resolutions and, of course, the ministries must finish their work for the current year. God willing, after this session, we will have another session before the start of the new year, and in that

session we will take stock of activities carried out in the year ending 20 March 1984.

[Correspondent] The use of chemical bombs by the Iraqi regime has been confirmed by international scientific and medical circles. What are the expectations of the Islamic Republic of Iran from the UN delegation which is now in Iran. Will the delegation express an opinion on this issue alone or will other issues be dealt with as well?

[Musavi] The delegation will only investigate and report on chemical weapons — whether they have been used and their effects. What we expect is that these steps will further enlighten world public opinion about the war. I should point out that we do not expect international organizations and various governments of the world to side with the truth. What has always been effective in connection with the Islamic Revolution and with the war has been the attention of various nations. The feelings of nations and the wishes of nations — willingly or unwillingly — influence the positions adopted by governments. We attach great importance to this issue. The truths we utter to the world are aimed at making use of this great power of nations in the service of the Islamic Revolution within the country and throughout the world. [end recording]

Tribunal To Sentence Hoarders, Profiteers*LD142033 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
14 Mar 84*

[Excerpt] With the merger of some branches of the first and second penal courts with the guilds affairs tribunal, this tribunal will be empowered to put on trial and to punish, with sentences up to execution, profiteers and those who hoard people's basic foodstuffs and provisions, as mofsed-e fel arz [corrupt on earth].

Announcing this matter and referring to the country's present situation, the shari'a judge of the guilds affairs tribunal stressed in a press conference the importance of the role of committed bazaar merchants before and after the victory of the Islamic Revolution: Despite the war situation in the country and all the conspiracies, there is still a group of bazaaris who have not yet given up profiteering and hoarding and who wittingly or unwittingly try to strike at this revolution in line with the aims of the superpowers.

Thanking the bazaaris who cooperate with guilds affairs tribunals, he then asked them to report to judicial officials themselves this small group so that they might be punished for their offenses.

Khomeyni Pardons Prisoners for New Year*LD142027 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 14 Mar 84*

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA — On the occasion of the forthcoming Iranian new year (Nowruz) March 20, another group of prisoners, who were considered qualified, have been pardoned by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The spokesman of the high judicial council, Ayatollah Moqtada'i, speaking in a press conference said here today that on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, recent victories scored by the Islamic combatants in the Iraqi imposed war and also the Iranian new year, a special circular for pardon of prisoners is to be sent out.

He further added that the circular had been approved by Imam Khomeyni and the courts would act accordingly in the shortest possible time.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,665

*LD141726 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
14 Mar 84*

[Communique No 1,665 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] Yesterday in the western operational zone, the Islamic combatants guarded and defended their positions and zones; firing on enemy tank and artillery emplacements and concentration centers, they halted the enemy's movements and pounded some of its positions.

At 2300 on 12 March, an enemy patrol group attempted to penetrate the defense positions of the Islamic combatants in the Pavah region, but our forces' timely fire forced it to flee with losses.

In the Northwest operational zone, the forces of Islam fired on enemy supply routes, damaging a number of the Saddamist mercenaries' vehicles. Furthermore, by firing on the defense lines and construction units of the Saddamist forces, they disrupted their operations to repair positions and create obstacles, and a number of Iraqi servicemen were killed or wounded.

In the southern operational zone yesterday, our combat units fired on the fortifications, concentration centers, and trenches of the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist forces. Fire was more intense in areas north of Zayd and south of Kushk.

On several fronts in the southern operational zone, the enemy patrols, which were attempting to penetrate our defense positions, were sighted by the front line units and fled, owing to our forces' fire.

Yesterday the enemy's long-range and heavy weapons fire destroyed 19 houses and 9 stores in the city of Abadan.

Fighting Continues in Talayah, Majnun Theaters

*LD141522 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1132 GMT
14 Mar 84*

[Unscheduled commentary]

[Excerpts] According to the latest reports from the fronts of the battle between the brave combatants of Islam and Saddam's mercenaries, the forces of Islam continue to establish themselves in their new positions in the Talayah axis. By using special

tactics, they have destroyed several tanks of the Iraqi 56th Armored Brigade. During an important operation in the past 48 hours, they destroyed enemy strongholds and high observation platforms on that axis. Enemy losses in that operation are estimated at nearly 150 killed and about 400 wounded.

According to a commander of the forces of Islam, the operation was one of the victorious operations of the forces of Islam during the past few days. Although during the past few days, in order to capture the Majnun Island, the enemy has subjected it to heavy shelling, his feeble efforts have been fruitless. These attacks and counteroffensives to capture the Majnun Island by the Ba'thist forces still continue. Although in most of these counteroffensives the intensity and duration of fire, together with the explosion of chemical bombs, created a collection of the most savage assortment of military acts of aggression, the brave forces of Islam made the feeble enemy more desperate with their characteristic strength.

In connection with the latest military developments in the Khaybar operational theater, IRNA reported the Ba'thist forces fired about six rockets containing chemicals at the Majnun Islands and another sector of the Khaybar operation, polluting parts of these areas with chemicals.

Meanwhile, the treatment of victims of Iraq's chemical bombings continues in hospitals in Iran, Sweden, Japan, Switzerland, France, and Britain. Although nearly all the doctors and experts have expressed their views on the cause of the injuries being chemical bombardment, some puppet agents are doing their utmost not to declare their views clearly and, if possible, keep world public opinion in the dark concerning the full facts of this tragedy.

The Soviet reaction to this criminal act by Iraq gives one food for thought. According to reports received, the Soviet Union has criticized the United States for deciding to send a delegation of experts to investigate the use of chemical weapons by Iraq against Iranian soldiers.

Activities of UN Delegation Reported

Arrival in Ahvaz

LD141251 Tehran IRNA in English 1150 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Ahvaz, March 14, IRNA — Members of the UN fact-finding delegation arrived here today one day ahead of the original schedule to visit the southern battlefronts where the Iraqi forces have used chemical weapons several times during the past weeks.

The War Information Headquarters requested the delegation to visit the fronts as soon as possible "in order to acquire a more comprehensive scope of the magnitude of the Iraqi crimes."

The latest Iraqi chemical bombings in the southern fronts came Tuesday morning, injuring tens of combatants.

Inspection of Bombing Sites

LD142317 Tehran IRNA in English 2022 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Ahvaz, March 14, IRNA — Members of the U.N. fact-finding delegation today visited the Khaybar operational region inside Iran along the Hawr al-Huwayzah marsh and inspected sites of Iraqi chemical attacks. They took samples from a deactivated chemical bomb and spoke to a number of Islamic combatants who had witnessed the Iraqi bombings.

The delegation also inspected evidences of Iraq's Tuesday chemical attack in the Khaybar operational region, inside Iranian territory.

Wearing special masks and protective gloves, the U.N. chemical experts inspected a chemical bomb which had not exploded and took samples from its contents which looked like a thick dark-coloured liquid.

In another site inspected by the delegation attacked by Iraqis on Feb. 29 in the same area, one metre deep holes had been created by chemical bombs. Around the holes the soil had turned black indicating it had been burnt with intense chemical reactions.

The delegation members saw remains from seven chemical bombs at the site as well as bombs that were 1.5 metre long and looked like industrial oxygen capsules. At the end of each bomb there were three fuses. The bombs had yellow layers.

Some members of the probe team took notes and photographs from English inscriptions on the remains of the bombs.

The delegation members also took detailed notes in interviews with Islamic combatants in the operational region who had witnessed the chemical bombings and some had been affected as well.

A 25-year-old combatant said Iraqi planes a few days ago flew in low altitude and dropped their bombs in the area. The bombs exploded into flames but did not have a loud sound unlike other bombs, and its gas covered the area.

Another combatant said the gas was colourless and smelled like garlic. One of the combatants who had been slightly injured by the chemicals showed signs of chemical poisoning on his skin and neck. He said a number of hours after the chemical bombing he felt severe burns and small blisters on his facial skin, nose and eyes along with headache. He added that the chemical bombing immediately affected some of the combatants in the area and they fell numb on the ground.

After their inspection tour of the fronts, which took several hours, the delegation members visited the Khatim ol-Anbiya' hospital and were acquainted with the activities of the hospital and its staff.

The delegation, accompanied by Iran's U.N. representative, Dr. Seyed Rajaie-Khorassani, also visited a clinic here this evening and met with a number of combatants who suffered from chemical bombings.

They also spoke to the chief medical supervisor of the clinic Dr. Forowtan who gave a report on the affects of the chemicals on the victims.

15 Chemical Weapons Victims Flown to FRG

LD150921 Tehran IRNA in English 0910 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 15 IRNA — Another 15 wounded Islamic combatants of Iraqi deployed international banned chemical weapons were flown to Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) this morning for treatment aboard a special charter flight of martyr foundation of the Islamic revolution.

This is the third group of wounded of chemical weapons victims sent abroad for treatment.

So far 28 of the wounded soldiers have been sent abroad for medical treatment to Austria, Sweden, Japan, Britain, Switzerland, and France of whom six have passed away as result of these lethal chemical bombs.

It is to be noted that the Austrian physicians treating Iranian combatants have identified the poisonous gases deployed against Iranian forces as mycotoxin or "yellow rain" and nitrogen gas known as "yellow cross" given to Iraq by its eastern and western supporters.

Nicaraguan Foreign Trade Minister Arrives 10 Mar

LD101145 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] The Nicaraguan minister of foreign trade, who is leading a delegation which includes that country's tourism minister, this morning arrived in Tehran for talks. The delegation was welcomed at the airport by Commerce Minister Jafari.

Meeting With Velayati

LD102208 Tehran IRNA in English 1935 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA — Nicaragua's Foreign Trade Minister Alejandro Martinez Cuenca who arrived here today at the head of a delegation met and conferred with the Iranian foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today.

In this meeting the Nicaraguan minister expressed pleasure for his visit to Tehran and said that the Islamic revolution of Iran and the revolution of Nicaragua were both exposed to the threats of the imperialist U.S., and noted that Iran and Nicaragua had to cooperate in order to cope with the threats of the United States.

Dr. Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister, in response expressed hope that the visit of the high ranking Nicaraguan delegation to Tehran would open a new chapter in the relations between the two countries.

Velayati further noted that the U.S. was a common enemy to Iran and Nicaragua, which had spared no enmity to either of them. But, he added, because of the vigilance of the peoples the

plots of the imperialists have never checked the momentum of the peoples' uprising.

In addition to his expected talks with the Islamic Republic officials the Nicaraguan minister is also to make preliminary arrangements for a future visit here by Nicaragua's members of the board of government national reconstruction, Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado.

Session With Bank Governor

GF111716 Tehran IRNA in English 1627 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA — Nicaragua's foreign trade minister, Alejandro Martinez, who is currently in Iran, met with Mohsen Nurbakhsh, the governor of the Central Bank of Iran, here today.

In this meeting, financial and trade issues of bilateral interest were discussed between the two sides and views exchanged.

The Nicaraguan minister noted that his government and the people held in high esteem the Islamic revolution of Iran. He also said of the near future visit of a high ranking Nicaraguan delegation to Iran to hold official talks with Iranian officials.

Musavi Welcomes Nicaragua's Ramirez Mercado

LD121237 Tehran IRNA in English 0943 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA — Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado, a member of the three-man National Reconstruction Council of Nicaragua, arrived here Monday morning and was welcomed by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi and a number of Iranian officials.

Dr Ramirez is heading a political-economic delegation to Iran to hold talks with officials of the Islamic Republic.

IRNA Interview Remarks

GF121758 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA — Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Nicaragua's Board of Government of National Reconstruction, said objectives of his trip was to further consolidate solidarity between the two governments and the nations.

The Nicaraguan official who arrived here this morning on an official visit, heading a high-ranking delegation, further told IRNA that revolutions in Iran and Nicaragua materialised at the same time and both had left great effects on human history.

Although these revolutions took place in two different geographical areas, both had the anti-imperialistic character, he added. Imperialism tried to halt advance of the both revolutions, but both revolutions were launched to campaign against imperialism, he stressed.

Furthermore he added that people of Iran were advancing ahead for their independence, national sovereignty and basic changes

in political and social structure of the country. He also announced solidarity of the Nicaraguan Government and people with the anti-imperialistic struggle of the people of Iran.

On the hostile stance of the U.S. toward Nicaragua, he said that it has always considered Nicaragua as one of its strategic interests and wished to dominate it once again. For this reason, the U.S. has declared a war against Nicaragua, he concluded.

Also the Iranian Prime Minister Musavi said in the same interview that the visit to Tehran by Mr. Ramirez was made in the wake of earlier contacts between Iranian and Nicaraguan officials. He said he had also met and conferred with the commander of the National Reconstruction Government of Nicaragua, Mr. Daniel Ortega during the Non-Aligned Conference last year.

He said one basic topic to be discussed with the Nicaraguan officials in Tehran was how the two countries could exchange their experiences in fighting the supercilious world powers, including the United States. He said there was a bright outlook in the economic relations between the two countries.

12 March Meeting

LD131603 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA — Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Nicaraguan Board of Government of National Reconstruction, currently here on an official visit, met and talked with Prime Minister Musavi here Monday night.

During the meeting, which was attended by several ministers of the both countries, Prime Minister Musavi referring to similarities between the two countries including the long record of struggle against U.S. imperialism, pointed out the two nations' campaign against the plots of U.S. subservient regimes in both strategic regions.

Explaining the key to the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran Prime Minister Musavi said that once a nation was awakened and dispelled the fear from superpowers, then it would be sure of the victory and invulnerability of its revolution.

Furthermore he told the Nicaraguan official, who arrived here Monday heading a high-ranking delegation, that the Iranian people, due to their unity with their leader, have defended their revolution in the most critical times. Consequently at present the revolution was stronger than ever, he added.

He then referred to similar methods adopted by U.S. imperialism against the peoples of Iran and Nicaragua including imposition of economic sanctions, and instigation by subservient countries for creating problems at the border. This showed, he stressed, fate of the struggles in Third World countries against world oppressors, was a common fate.

Sergio Ramirez Mercado while analysing critical situation in Central America caused by aggression and domination of U.S. imperialism, explained the effects of the Nicaraguan revolution on countries of the region.

He said that U.S. Administration in an effort to crush Nicaraguan revolution, has mobilised all its economic and military power. Just like the war which has been imposed on Iran, said the Nicaraguan official, his country was under pressure by its neighbours and there has been an effort to isolate the Nicaraguan revolution.

However, he stressed that people of Nicaragua through their unity and solidarity, has stood against all these plots with all its power, and has so far struggled against all difficulties.

Commentary Views Baghdad Foreign Ministers Meeting
LD142113 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT
 14 Mar 84

[Unattributed commentary: "Baghdad's New Request"]

[Text] Following the recent application of the regime of Iraq for a meeting of the foreign ministers of the country members of the Arab world in Baghdad, some Arab regimes have announced their agreement for participation in the session. In addition to the deputies [as heard] of Arab regimes in the Baghdad meeting, Yasir 'Arafat, too, will attend this conference. This conference is to be held under a condition when the weakness and helplessness of Iraq in facing the Islamic Republic of Iran has become greater owing to the blows dealt by Islamic combatants and their repeated victories at the battle fronts. At the same time, Islamic fighters are determined to end this unwanted war as quickly as possible in favor of Islam and the Muslims until the center of plot and aggression is destroyed. Moreover, the regime of Iraq has been disgraced internationally because of its use of chemical weapons and exposing activities of the Islamic Republic of Iran in an unprecedented manner. This disgrace and ignominy have gone so far that the great satan, America, and some imperialist media, too, have denounced this act of the regime of Iraq while they have admitted the truth of it.

Under such conditions, Saddam is trying to check the liberating moves of the Islamic combatants by means of spreading the war to other countries and enabling the world arrogance to make a direct interference in these matters and eventually saving itself. The reason is that Saddam has realized that confronting and resisting the Islamic combatants has no result but defeat and abjectness for him. Moreover, this Baghdad gathering is an attempt for a quick return of the regime of Egypt to the Arab society and the reactionary reinforcement of the regimes of Jordan, Egypt, and Iraq with the participation of Yasir 'Arafat. At the same time, the regime of Iraq has for some time been trying insistently to bring Arab countries to take a direct part in the war by means of relying on the joint Arab pact and in this way persuade all the Arab governments to confront the Islamic Republic of Iran.

But the repeated opposition of some governments with such a plot and the existing differences between Arab regimes have resulted in the defeat of the regime of Iraq in this matter. Moreover, it is not far-fetched to say that the Iraqi regime is probably intending to win an all-round support of other Arab regimes and securing the expected harmony between them whereby engaging in fresh ventures and preparing the necessary ground for the expansion

of the war and interference of the great satan. [sentence as heard] But inspite of all these [word indistinct] and futile plots of the regime of Iraq and the various threats of Saddam's [word indistinct] and international supporters the war of Iran and Iraq has reached such a stage after 3 years of crime and aggression by Saddam and his supporters and the annihilation of a great part of the material and human resources of the two nations of Iran and Iraq that ending the war is practicable only if all the rightful conditions of the Islamic Republic of Iran are fulfilled and the center of plot and aggression is destroyed.

Today, the countries bordering the Persian Gulf should realize that Saddam is doomed to fail and the continuation of support has no consequence but loss and damage. Contrary of [as heard] the corrupting regime of Iraq the destruction of the center of plot and aggression in Baghdad is practically resolved in the establishment of real security and tranquillity in the Gulf.

As the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran have repeatedly declared, contrary to the scheming propaganda of the imperialistic media the Islamic Republic of Iran is in a greater need of security and tranquillity than any other government in order to benefit from the security and tranquillity to attain its Islamic and human goal and ideal in its society and in this way prepare a proper ground for the export of the revolution in its true and real sense.

At the same time the Islamic Republic of Iran once more declares to Saddam's (?home) and international supporters that the spread of war and interference of the great satan has not the slightest effect on the iron resolution of the Muslim nation of Iran and it will not provide a loophole for the Baghdad criminals to escape.

The Muslim nation of Iran will stand firmly and valiantly against the aggressors in the same way that its exalted Imam Husayn ibn 'Ali — peace be upon him — withstood his enemies and will deal such heavy and deadly blows upon those who interfere, that its memory will never be forgotten.

As our foreign minister declared, and here is a quote: We warned the Arab countries not to rely on the government of Baghdad since this government is doomed to fall, and any step taken in connection with bilateral and multilateral relationships of Arab countries with Saddam's government will not be connived at, and in our view the participation of some ministers of Arab countries in the Baghdad conference is considered an unfriendly act.

NVOI Assails 'Hostility' Toward Traditions
TA141601 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian
 1730 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Unattributed commentary: "Islamic Regime — Enemy of Nowruz"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: Ayatollah Khomeyni has asked youths and children who have been dispatched by the Islamic rulers to the slaughterhouses of the destructive and devastating war not to return to their homes during Nowruz [new year], but to remain at the fronts and be killed. He said that this is the

greatest divine service. These remarks by Ayatollah Khomeyni, more than anything else, are indicative of the outrage felt by the broad masses of people at the desiructive and deadly war, which has reached the point that the Islamic rulers are no longer able to keep youths at the fronts. They are forced to seek the help of Ayatollah Khomeyni who issued a decree to the effect that burning in the furnace of the U.S.-fabricated war is the greatest divine service and that returning home on Nowruz and visiting family are the greatest sins. Therefore, anyone who says that on the basis of this ancient tradition of Iran and Iranians that he wants to remain home with his family and dear ones on the eve of the Nowruz feast is an enemy of God and His prophet and may be killed with impunity.

A more important fact in these remarks by Ayatollah Khomeyni — but more deeply hidden — is the Islamic rulers' hostility and animosity toward all our historical and national traditions, customs, and glories and toward everything recalling the delightful fragrance of Iran and Iranians and which is the rationale for the survival of our nationality. This hostility and animosity are not new. In Iran's history, which goes back several thousand years, there were numerous conquerors and rulers who also tried, by destroying our national traditions and glories, to take our Iranian nationality away from us. The most outstanding example of this is the Arab onslaught against Iran and the occupation of our homeland.

The story of the golden Nowruz is an example of the Iranians' intense attachment to their ancient tradition and illustrates the weakness of the Islamic rulers who want to destroy it. Now the Islamic regime's superstitious and anti-Iranian rulers, too, are trying to test the tested. Five springs and 5 Nowruzes have come and gone since the victory of our nation's glorious popular and anti-imperialist revolution. However, every year, leaders of the Islamic regime have tried under a certain pretext to depict Nowruz as unimportant. This year as well they are endeavoring through [word indistinct] and religious decrees, to prevent

Iranians from celebrating the ancient Nowruz feast — the day of victory of light over darkness — so that the people will forget their history of several thousand years and will consign their national and historical traditions to oblivion.

These enemies of Iran and Iranians, these foes of our national and ancient traditions and glories, even refer to the Iranian nation as the Islamic nation. Yet Nowruz — this manifestation of Iranian nationality and the unity and oneness of Iranians, and this symbol of an Iranian's fondness for struggle and life — is alive and will remain so.

Free Voice of Iran: Bam Friday Imam Executed

*GF141732 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian
1500 GMT 14 Mar 84*

[Text] Just on the eve of the new year, we have received information that Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad (?Hajeb), the so-called Friday imam of Bam, became a target of the elements that oppose the regime and has been executed. The revolutionary execution of this mullah has made the revolution guards and the regime clerics very concerned.

Foreign Ministry Delegation Leaves on African Tour

LD141223 Tehran IRNA in English 1155 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA — The Foreign Affairs Ministry deputy for political and international affairs, and the special envoy of the president, Hoseyn Kazempur-Ardabili, left Tehran this morning for a tour of four African countries.

Kazempur-Ardabili who is heading a delegation will visit Niger, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Benin and will hold talks with officials of these countries on expansion of mutual relations.